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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

June 4, 2009

ALL COUNTY LETTER 09-26

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) AND THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAMS: TREATMENT OF 2010 UNITED STATES CENSUS WORKERS' INCOME

REFERENCE: MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTIONS: 44-101(a)(QR); 44-113.21(QR); 44-316.324(QR); 63-502.131; 63-509(a)(2); 63-509(b); 69-206.1 and ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 00-18.

The purpose of this ACL is to provide counties with information on the treatment of earnings received by 2010 United States Census temporary workers. It is expected that approximately 17,000 full-time and part-time workers will be hired as census takers in California beginning on April 1, 2009. Most workers will be working from four to ten weeks.

CalWORKs CASH AID

In accordance with MPP Section 44-101(a)(QR) and MPP Section 44-113.21(QR), income received by recipients while working on the 2010 Census is not exempt for CalWORKs cash aid purposes and would be treated as earned income if it can be reasonably anticipated. Although this income would not be exempt, it would be eligible for all applicable earned income disregards.

The nature of these temporary part-time and full-time jobs is such that the income received will often be difficult to reasonably anticipate. Per MPP Sections 44-101(a)(QR) and 44-113.21(QR) net income includes earnings that are considered reasonably anticipated when the amount of income and the payment dates are known with relative certainty. Under the current CalWORKs reporting system, only income that can be reasonably anticipated may be counted when calculating the cash grant for the upcoming quarter. Therefore, if census income cannot be

reasonably anticipated (as defined in our regulations) by a CalWORKs recipient, it will not be used in the family's grant calculation.

In addition, per MPP Section 44-316.324(QR), any income received mid-quarter that does not exceed the Income Reporting Threshold, does not need to be reported until the next QR7 is due and may not affect the CalWORKs grant, if it is not expected to continue.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Income received by a Food Stamp Household from temporary employment related to the 2010 Census is treated as earned income (MPP Section 63-502.131) for program eligibility and benefit level determination purposes, and is subject to the allowable earned income deductions. For quarterly reporting households, the instructions given above under the "CalWORKs Cash Aid" section also apply to determining food stamp benefits per MPP Sections 63-509(a)(2) and 63-509(b).

REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA) AND TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (TCVAP)

The above instructions regarding the treatment of temporary census income also applies to the RCA program in accordance with MPP Section 69-206.1 which states that income shall be considered on the same basis as in the CalWORKs program for determining need and computing the assistance payment, except that the sponsored alien provisions as they apply in the CalWORKs program shall not be applied to RCA cases. The above instructions also apply to TCVAP.

Please direct questions regarding the CalWORKs income requirements to your CalWORKs County Consultant at (916) 654-1322. For questions regarding Food Stamp program requirements please contact your Food Stamp Branch Policy Consultant at (916) 654-1896. For questions regarding RCA or TCVAP, please contact Camille Ancona at (916) 653-7785.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division